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"What are you going to do when they won't work?" We are unable to ward off the blow with a satisfactory answer, but we may, if we like, take some comfort in the thought that in Mr. Davis's period they worked and produced the goods.

B. B. KENDRICK.

Occasional Addresses, 1893-1916. By the Right Hon. H. H. ASQUITH. London and New York, Macmillan and Company, 1918. —x, 194 pp.

These addresses have no great interest for the student of politics save as they give a clue to Mr. Asquith's mind and reading. There are speeches on criticism, biography, culture and character, the English Bible and other subjects. One of the best is entitled "The Spade and the Pen", delivered before the British Classical Association, in which the recent achievements of archaeology are summarized and extolled. There are shorter addresses in praise of the Bar, of Edinburgh and of the Royal Society. At the end are brief estimates of Jowett, Campbell-Bannerman, Edward VII and Alfred Littleton. In compact, balanced statement Mr. Asquith excels, and his tributes to the departed great reveal him as master of the art of terse and stately epitaph. When he deals with criticism and biography he says nothing that is very fresh, but he is judicious, sure-footed, sweetly reasonable and full of pleasant quotation. His reading has been marked by catholicity, good taste and individuality. He has praise for Lockhart's *Scott*, for Mrs. Grote's *Life* of her husband, for Mrs. Gaskell's *Life of Charlotte Brontë* and particularly for the *Autobiography* of Benjamin Robert Haydon. Everything he writes proves him a Wordsworthian to the core. As a man of wide and deep intellectual interests, however, he is not to be compared with Gladstone nor with his own colleagues, Morley and Haldane.

He has been above all an advocate. He can pack into a speech that occupies three columns of the following morning's newspaper the most persuasive statement of the political case for which he is pleading; he can seem to give his opponents their due and more and yet prove that they are quite wrong. But these essays are not in advocacy and reveal less of his talents.

Urbanity, fairness and sound judgment are the virtues of this collection. There is not much humor, there are few pat phrases, there is no unusual wisdom. That the addresses were well received one cannot doubt; that they were worth gathering together is less certain.

WALLACE NOTESTEIN.